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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [IZ](#) [SY](#) [IR](#) [SA](#) [JO](#) [MEPP](#)

SUBJECT: FM MUASHER SAYS ISRAELI WALL IS KILLING PROSPECTS  
FOR A TWO-STATE SOLUTION TO STAFFDEL NORDQUIST

Classified By: Ambassador Edward Gnehm for reason 1.5d

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Summary  
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11. (C) FM Muasher told a Senate staff delegation on January 15 that the Israeli separation barrier - "the wall" - is killing prospects for a two-state solution, and that he expects negative movement in the peace process this year. He fears a future partitioning of Iraq if any arrangement is made to weaken the central government and is concerned about Iran's influence in the south. On Saudi Arabia, he said that if there is a change in regimes it "will be to the Bin Ladens". On Syria, he characterized President Bashar Al Asad and FM Farouk Sharaa's views on the Iraqi Governing Council's (IGC) progress as completely different. End Summary.

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Palestine-Israel  
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12. (C) Muasher described the PNA as "in total paralysis" and expects that there will be reversals in the peace process this year. He described the wall's current location as a "killer to future prospects for a two-state solution," and he believes that its construction is not temporary. He stressed Jordan's strategic interests - to protect Jordan from a population transfer - arguing that construction of the wall led to inevitable consequences that would undermine Jordan's security.

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Iraq  
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13. (C) He expressed deep concern that any arrangement made in Iraq to weaken the central government would lead to a partitioning into two or three areas, seriously endangering stability. He said that the Sunnis feel marginalized and that membership in the IGC should be more representative of the population. He is worried over Iran's influence in the south and described the planned withdrawal of U.S. forces in July as a "disaster".

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Saudi Arabia and Syria  
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14. (C) Muasher expressed Jordan's support for Crown Prince Abdullah but said he fears extremism and instability in the Kingdom. He said pointedly that if there is a change in regimes, "it will be to the Bin Ladens", not to liberal democrats. On Syria, he observed that President Bashar Al Asad and FM Faruk Shara seemed not to share the same view on foreign policy. Citing a recent trip to Damascus, Muasher described Shara's opinion of the IGC's progress as extremely negative but said that Asad took the opposite view.

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GNEHM